

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A service disclosing and providing method implemented in a case wherein a first service of an uppermost level in a service hierarchy is provided by a first service providing means and a second service of a level lower than the first service is provided by a second service providing means, both said first and second service providing means being located on a network, and having have a dependent relationship, said method comprising the steps of:

responsive to an inquiry issued from a service utilizing means, sending by a service disclosing means a location of said first service providing means being under disclosure to said service utilizing means;

receiving by said first service providing means a service request sent from said service utilizing means to request said second service providing means to provide a-said second service by using a location of said second service providing means being under non-disclosure; and

sending back by said second service providing means the requested information to said service utilizing means via said first service providing means,

wherein said service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information about said device.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) A service disclosing and providing method according to claim 1, wherein said service request is respective pieces of information that a plurality of said second service providing means send back, and said first service providing means aggregates the respective pieces of information that said second service providing means send back, and responds to said service utilizing means.

4. (Currently Amended) A service disclosing and providing method implemented in a case wherein a first service of an uppermost level in a service hierarchy is provided by a first service providing means and a second service of a level lower than the first service is provided by a second service providing means, both said first and second service providing means being located on a network, and having have a dependent relationship, said method comprising the steps of:

requesting by a service utilizing means said first service providing means to provide a-the first service by using a location of said first service providing means being under disclosure;

accepting by said first service providing means a service request sent from said service utilizing means to request said second service providing means to provide a-the second service by using a location of said second service providing means being under non-disclosure; and

sending back by said second service providing means the requested information to said service utilizing means via said first service providing means, wherein said service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information about said device.

5. (Original) A service disclosing and providing method according to claim 4, wherein said first service providing means controls a user's right accessing said second service providing means, the user relating to said service utilizing means.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) A service disclosing and providing method according to claim 4, wherein said service request is respective pieces of information that a plurality of said second service providing means send back, and said first service providing means aggregates the respective pieces of information that said second service providing means send back, and responds to said service utilizing means.

8. (Currently Amended) A service disclosing and providing method implemented in a case wherein a first service of an uppermost level in a service hierarchy is provided by a first service providing means and a second service of a level lower than the first service is provided by a second service providing means,

both said first and second service providing means being located on a network, and
having have a dependent relationship, said method comprising the steps of:

accepting by said first service providing means a service request sent from a service utilizing means and issued by using a location of said first service providing means being under disclosure to request said second service providing means to provide a-the second service by using a location of said second service providing means being under non-disclosure; and

sending back by said second service providing means the requested information to said service utilizing means via said first service providing means,

wherein said service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information about said device.

9. (Original) A service disclosing and providing method according to claim 8, wherein said first service providing means controls a user's right accessing said second service providing means, the user relating to said service utilizing means.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A first service providing program for, in a case wherein a first service of an uppermost level in a service hierarchy is provided by said first service providing program and a second service of a level lower than the

first service is provided by a second service providing program, both said first and second service providing programs being located on a network, and having have a dependent relationship, causing one or more computers to realize a function of accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing device and issued using a location of said first service providing program being under disclosure, and a function of requesting said second service providing program to provide a the second service by using a location of said second service providing program being under non-disclosure; and

 said second service providing program for, in said case, causing the one or more computers to realize a function of sending back requested information to the service utilizing device via said first service providing program,

 wherein said service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information about said device.

12. (Original) A first service providing program according to claim 11, wherein said first service providing program causes said one or more computers to further realize a function of controlling a user's right accessing said second service providing program, the user relating to said service utilizing device.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A program product comprising:

a service providing program for, in a case wherein a first service of an uppermost level in a service hierarchy is provided by a first service providing program and a second service of a level lower than the first service is provided by a second service providing program, both said first and second service providing programs being located on a network, and having have a dependent relationship, causing one or more computers to realize a function of sending back a location of said first service providing program being under disclosure to a service utilizing device in response to an inquiry sent from said service utilizing device;

said first service providing program for, in said case, causing said one or more computers to realize a function of accepting a service request issued from said service utilizing device, and a function of requesting said second service providing program to provide a-the second service by using a location of said second service providing program being under non-disclosure; and

said second service providing program for, in said case, causing said one or more computers to realize a function of sending back requested information to said service utilizing device via said first service providing program,

wherein said service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information about said device.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) A program product according to claim 14, wherein said service request is respective pieces of information that a plurality of said second service providing programs send back, and said first service providing program causes said one or more computers to realize a function of aggregating the respective pieces of information that said second service programs send back, and responding to said service utilizing device.

17. (Currently Amended) A program product comprising:
a first service providing program for, in a case wherein a first service of an uppermost level in a service hierarchy is provided by said first service providing program and a second service of a level lower than the first service is provided by a second service providing program, both said first and second service providing programs being located on a network, and having have a dependent relationship,
causing one or more computers to realize a function of accepting a service request sent from a service utilizing device and issued using a location of said first service providing program being under disclosure, and a function of requesting said second service providing program to provide the second services by using a location of said second service providing program being under non-disclosure; and
said second service providing program for, in said case, causing said one or more computers to realize a function of sending back requested information to said service utilizing device via said first service providing program,

wherein said service request is a request for acquisition of status information about a device, and a response to the request is the status information about said device.

18. (Original) A program product according to claim 17, wherein said first service providing program causes said one or more computers to realize a function of controlling an access right to said second service providing program by a user related to said service utilizing device.

19. (Canceled)

20. (New) A service disclosing and providing method according to claim 1, wherein said second service providing means is capable of providing a third service which does not have a dependent relationship with said first and second services, and said second service providing means sends back a location of said third service in response to an inquiry issued from said service utilizing means.

21. (New) A service disclosing and providing method according to claim 4, wherein said second service providing means is capable of providing a third service which does not have a dependent relationship with said first and second services, and said second service providing means sends back a location of said third service in response to an inquiry issued from said service utilizing means.

22. (New) A service disclosing and providing method according to claim 8, wherein said second service providing means is capable of providing a third service which does not have a dependent relationship with said first and second services, and said second service providing means sends back a location of said third service in response to an inquiry issued from said service utilizing means.

23. (New) A first service providing program and second service providing program according to claim 11, wherein said second service providing program is capable of providing a third service which does not have a dependent relationship with said first and second services, and said second service providing program sends back a location of said third service in response to an inquiry issued from said service utilizing means.

24. (New) A program product according to claim 14, wherein said second service providing program is capable of providing a third service which does not have a dependent relationship with said first and second services, and said second service providing program sends back a location of said third service in response to an inquiry issued from said service utilizing means.

25. (New) A program product according to claim 17, wherein said second service providing program is capable of providing a third service which does not

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have a dependent relationship with said first and second services, and said second service providing program sends back a location of said third service in response to an inquiry issued from said service utilizing means.